

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 120, Baton Rouge, LA

**April 16, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Willie George Lee, James Little, Edwin Parker, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Tamiara Wade, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Matt Milazzo,

MEMBER ARRIVED AT 5:20 pm: Lionel Bailey

*Vacancy: St. Helena Parish*

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Babin.

2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Lee to approve the February 2019 regular meeting minutes.

6. Financial Statement Report

- Hoover presented to the Board the February and March 2019 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Wade to approve the February and March 2019 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.

7. Executive Director Report

- CRDC
  - Progress on the Comite River Diversion Canal on several fronts are progressing well. At the US61 canal crossings utility relocations are in progress and the USAC will advertise for construction bids by the end of May 2019. Also, ARBC has provided right-of-entry to the USACE and LaDOTD for surveys of the canal right-of-way. Soil borings are underway at the location of the future White Bayou Drop Structure. DOTD is actively involved in the remaining acquisitions along the future canal alignment.
  - A second Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held on April 17, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the future crossing of the canal by US61 in the vicinity of the Irene Rd/US61. Federal, state and local officials have been invited.
  - The USACE will hold three public hearings to receive public input for the Amite River tributaries study. These will be held in April at East Feliciana-Clinton Police Jury, Livingston Parish-Denham Springs Library, Ascension Parish-Prairieville Library.
  - DOTD Report by William Delmar: DOTD Real Estate is working on land acquisition priorities while waiting on right of way survey to be completed. Utility relocation construction has started at US61 with American Midstream wrapping up activities, and EnLink Midstream next to relocate their pipeline. Relocation activities will continue in the US61 vicinity through the end of 2019. The contract for the update of the LA964 bridge design has been awarded and notice to proceed will be issued the week of April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) consultant statement of qualifications has wrapped up and this contract for the LA19 and LA67 bridges should be soon.
  - ARBC Commissioner Lionel Bailey entered the meeting at this time, 5:20 pm.
  - North Landfill – Genesis Pipeline Agreement: Bankston said this agreement is between Genesis Pipeline, EBR Parish, ARBC, and Waste Management. Waste Management and Genesis Pipeline wanted to make certain they are complying with whatever construction standards necessary to cross the pipeline with the heavy trucks and equipment. A draft has been approved by EBR Parish, Genesis Pipeline, Waste Management and now needs ARBC approval. He recommended to the Board to authorize ARBC President Ben Babin to sign this agreement, as presented. The Board approved a motion by Hoover, seconded by Parker authorizing Babin to sign the agreement, as presented.

8. ARBC Legal Counsel

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- Bankston reported on the DOTD proposed changes of roles by the non-federal partners. They are planning to meet with DOTD to discuss changes. Modification to CEA would be needed.
  - Regarding the Local Services Agreement between ARBC, City/Parish of EBR and City of Central, ARBC will provide ROE for the East Baton Rouge Drainage Improvements.
9. Old Business – Resolution #1148. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Thomas, to approve Resolution #1148 as part of the Local Service Agreement with City-Parish and City of Central. This would allow ARBC to assist with right-of-entry as well as expropriation. This agreement was previously approved by the ARBC at the February 2019 regular meeting.
10. New Business
- Adopt the millage rate(s) for the tax year 2019: Resolution 1147. As there were no public comments, a motion was made by Thompson, second by Parker to approve Resolution No. 1147, as presented, to adopt the millage rate of 2.410 for the tax year 2019. The roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:  
YEAS: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Willie George Lee, James Little, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Tamiara Wade, Kenneth “Wade” Welborn  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Matt Milazzo  
*Vacancy: St. Helena Parish*
  - The Board unanimously approved a three-year engagement letter with John McKowen for fiscal years ending 2019, 2020 and 2021 for the amount of \$6000 on motion by Hoover second by Thompson.
  - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Parker, second by Bailey to approve the “Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Policy,” as presented.
11. The Board adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President  
Date: May 21, 2019

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary